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Anderson Sets Conditions on Apology to Iran

He Says Hostage Release, Proof of U.S. Role Required

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP). — Independent presidential candidate John Anderson said yesterday he might apologize to Iran for possible U.S. collaboration with the Iranian secret police, but only after the 53 American hostages were released.

Seeking to clarify statements made less than 24 hours earlier, the congressman called a hurry-up news conference to elaborate on his position.

Anderson had said Wednesday night that if there is documented evidence of U.S. intelligence agency collaboration with Iranian secret police who tortured or killed political foes of the shah, he would, as president, issue an apology.

Yesterday, however, Anderson sought to minimize the likelihood of such collaboration having occurred. "I do not believe such evidence exists," he said.

But in a question-and-answer session with six Oregon reporters Wednesday night, Anderson said, "We have undoubtedly made some serious mistakes" in our dealings with the shah's government.

If evidence of collaboration emerged, Anderson said at the time, "I want people to know it. The country is strong enough to stand the truth. I would apologize. I would apologize."

But he said yesterday there can be no discussion of either an apology, an investigation of the U.S. role in pre-revolutionary Iran or an investigation into possible collaboration between the CIA and SAVAK, the Iranian secret police, "until the hostages are released."

Anderson said there could be no apology without "documented evidence" that there was "collaboration between an official agency of this government and SAVAK" that led to "torture and murder."

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